



PARALLEL 21
internet application developer

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January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

The antitrust suit brought about against Microsoft was worth pursuing because it was a learning experience for both sides of the table. I would have preferred that the lesson was a bit less expensive, but that is water under the bridge. Now we have an opportunity to show what we learned. The settlement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice was a good conclusion to this case, but pursuing further litigation will only delay the advancement of technology. The case must be closed; the taxpayer cannot go on picking up the expense of an uneconomical situation.

The settlement instructs Microsoft to provide information regarding the development of software products to its competitors. Microsoft is also to refrain from retaliating against computer makers that may ship software that would compete with the Windows OS. I believe that these provisions and others in the settlement provide good guidelines for Microsoft to be a responsible leader of the IT industry.

The suit must demonstrate what *not* to do as a big business, but Microsoft should not be shrouded in litigation for providing the consumer with superior products. I strongly urge you to make certain that this settlement is confirmed.

Sincerely,

Alike Reppun
Director